

## CLAIMS

1. An extermination device, comprising a holder and a trigger mechanism, the holder being configured to hold an expanded resilient ring and the extermination device being configured to release the resilient ring, such that it contracts around a pest, when the trigger mechanism is actuated by the pest.

2. An extermination device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder is tubular and is open at a first end and closed at a second end.

3. An extermination device as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least part of the trigger mechanism is located within the holder.

4. An extermination device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the trigger mechanism is located entirely within the holder.

5. An extermination device as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein a bait or attractant is placed such that the trigger mechanism is between the first end and the bait or attractant.

6. An extermination device as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein the trigger mechanism includes a lever.

7. An extermination device as claimed in any preceding claim, including a firing member, wherein the holder is configured to hold the resilient ring in a release position and the firing member is biased towards the release position, and wherein the firing member and trigger mechanism are arranged such that the firing member is released from a cocked position and forces the resilient ring off the holder, when the trigger mechanism is actuated.

8. An extermination device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the firing member and trigger mechanism are formed integrally.

9. An extermination device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the resilient ring is made from natural or synthetic rubber.

10. An extermination device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the resilient ring is made from a composite material.

5 11. An extermination device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the resilient ring is made from a spring.

12. An extermination device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a dimension of an opening of the holder is in the range 25 to 40 mm.

10 13. An extermination device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein a dimension of an opening of the holder is in the range 60 to 100 mm.

15 14. An extermination device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the holder is configured to hold a plurality of expanded resilient rings, and the extermination device is configured to release one of the plurality of expanded resilient rings when the trigger mechanism is actuated.

20 15. An extermination device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the holder is configured to hold a first one of the expanded resilient rings at a release position, and the extermination device is configured to move a second one of the expanded resilient rings to the release position when the first one of the expanded resilient rings is released from the release position.

25 16. An extermination device as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a biasing means configured to apply a force to the second one of the resilient rings, towards the release position.

30 17. An extermination device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the biasing means is coupled to the trigger mechanism.

18. An extermination device as claimed in any preceding claim, configured to release the resilient ring, such that it contracts around the neck of the pest.

35 19. A method of exterminating a pest, comprising the steps of:

expanding a resilient ring; and  
releasing the resilient ring onto a pest when the resilient ring is located around the pest.

- 5 20. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising the step of holding the expanded resilient ring on a holder before releasing the resilient ring and wherein the step of releasing the resilient ring is performed when the pest actuates a trigger mechanism.
- 10 21. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the holder is tubular and is open at a first end and closed at a second end.
22. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein at least part of the trigger mechanism is located within the holder.
- 15 23. A method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising the step of placing a bait or attractant in the holder such that the trigger mechanism is between the first end and the bait or attractant.
- 20 24. A method as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 23, comprising the step of loading the expanded resilient ring onto the holder, prior to holding the resilient ring on the holder.
- 25 25. A method as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 24, wherein the step of holding the expanded resilient ring comprises holding a plurality of expanded resilient rings, and the step of releasing the resilient ring comprises releasing one of the plurality of expanded resilient rings.
- 30 26. A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the step of holding the expanded resilient ring comprises holding a first one of the plurality of the expanded resilient rings at a release position, the method further comprising the step of moving a second one of the expanded resilient rings to the release position when the first one of the expanded resilient rings is released.

27. A method as claimed in any one of claims 19 to 26, using the extermination device of any one of claims 1 to 17.

28. A loading device having a tapering body adapted to allow a resilient ring to be expanded from the narrow end to the wide end of the tapering body, wherein the wide end includes a formation adapted to engage with a holder of an extermination device.

29. A loading device as claimed in claim 28 in combination with an extermination device of any one of claims 1 to 18.

30. A method of loading an extermination device using a loading device as claimed in claim 28 comprising engaging the loading device with the holder and advancing a resilient ring from the narrow end to the wide end and onto the holder.